

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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R 201011Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2016

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

COMIDEASTFOR

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CINCUSNAVEUR

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MILITARY FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR XO SO US UR

SUBJECT: SIAD STATEMENT ON INDIAN OCEAN

REF: A. MOGADISCIO 634

B. MOGADISCIO 910

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SIAD'S ANSWER TO QUESTION ON
SUPER POWER RIVALRY IN INDIAN OCEAN DURING HIS JUNE 18
PRESS CONFERENCE BETRAYED CONTINUING SENSITIVITY TO
CHARGES THAT THERE ARE SOVIET BASES IN SOMALIA AND
REFRAINED FROM SPECIFIC COMMENT ON DIEGO GARCIA.
END SUMMARY.

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2. SIAD STATED THAT GSDF FELT THERE SHOULD BE NO
BASES IN INDIAN OCEAN AND CHARACTERIZED AS "LIE AND

UTTER NONSENSE" SPECULATION BY "CERTAIN QUARTERS" THAT USSR HAS BASES IN SOMALIA. HE CONTINUED:

BEGIN QUOTE

THE SOVIET UNION HAS NEVER ASKED TO HAVE A BASE IN SOMALIA AND WE WILL NEVER ALLOW IT. THESE ABOVE MENTIONED QUARTERS HAVE MADE THESE SPECULATIONS TO JUSTIFY THE MILITARY BASES WHICH THEY WANT TO BUILD IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE AIM BEHIND THESE ALLEGATIONS IS TO CONFUSE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION AND I AM PREPARED TO SHOW JOURNALISTS AREAS WHERE THESE QUARTERS CLAIM SOVIET MILITARY BASES ARE LOCATED. IF THE SUPER POWERS WANT TO QUARREL, LET THEM GO TO THEIR PLACES AND LEAVE US ALONE TO LIVE IN PEACE.

END QUOTE

3. COMMENT: PRESIDENT SIAD HAS PREVIOUSLY DENIED THAT SOVIETS HAVE, OR WOULD BE PERMITTED TO HAVE, BASES IN SOMALIA (REF A), BUT THIS IS A THEME WHICH HE OBVIOUSLY FEELS NEEDS REITERATING. WE ALSO NOTE THAT SIAD REFRAINED FROM SPECIFIC MENTION OF DIEGO GARCIA, THUS LEAVING HIS OPENING STATEMENT TO OAU SUMMIT (REF B), AS ONLY SPECIFIC GSDR REFERENCE TO THAT FACILITY OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE. WE WERE PLEASANTLY STRUCK BY SIAD'S FINAL STATEMENT WHICH SEEMS TO TREAT US AND USSR IN UNUSUALLY EVEN-HANDED MANNER. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WAS OMITTED FROM GSDR'S WRITTEN VERSION OF SIAD'S REMARKS. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT WHOLE SUBJECT OF BASES AND DIEGO GARCIA IS UNCOMFORTABLE ONE FOR SOMALIS AND THAT THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO MAKE MAJOR CAMPAIGN ON THE SUBJECT.

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Message Attributes

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